

Before you put it to the vote, may I enquire of hon. Shri Ranga whether he will be able to control the Members of his party when they are agitated and ruffled?

Shri Solanki (Kaira): Mr. Ranga was not present on that occasion, you will remember. He was not here.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the suspension of Sardar Kapur Singh ordered by the House on the 9th August, 1966, be terminated with effect from today."

The motion was adopted.

13.39 hrs.

RE: RELEASE OF ARRESTED GOLDSMITHS

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): May I put a question on the Gold Control statement? You said you would allow. When the Finance Minister made a statement, I rose and I wanted to put some questions, you said you would allow afterwards.

Mr. Speaker: I told him that he was raising that point that an assurance had been given....

Shri Daji (Indore): The Finance Minister made a statement. He was asking permission to put a question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is this. It was very good on the part of the Finance Minister to have made a statement and given some sort of assurance. He said that he would not consider gold control as such, he is not making a statement now, that will be made after the entire matter is discussed, but about other things he gave an assurance, and he made an appeal to the goldsmiths.

Mr. Speaker: He may put the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I put two questions. One is about gold control. Another is, the men have been arrested. So, I wanted an assurance from the Home Minister whether after this assurance they were to release them or not. Those people....

Mr. Speaker: He has put the question now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The Home Minister has conveniently gone away as if it is not his responsibility.

Mr. Speaker: I can allow him some other time.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: For seven days they have been in jail.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): He has appealed to them to give up the hunger strike. In the meantime they are arrested and put in jail. What is the grace in this appeal, I do not understand.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let them be released.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): May I say something? As I said, we shall treat every case with sympathy. If the hunger strike is given up, then the question of release will arise. Will the friends....

Shri Indrajit Gupta: You have locked them up in jail.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Anil Basu may die any moment.

Mr. Speaker: He asks for the answer, when he is answering it, he shouts him down. What is this procedure? (*Interruptions*) You ask my permission that you want to put a question, I asked the Minister to reply. When he is answering, you shout him down.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): We would like to have the answer completed.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: May I be permitted to make my answer? If I may, I will ask my hon. friends with the utmost humility that they will be kind enough—I will ask the Home Minister to make arrangements for them to see these gentlemen in jail—to get them go off the hunger strike and any other kind of thing....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Unconditional release.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: pending the discussion. If they do that—I hope I have the Prime Minister's authority to speak on that matter—there will not be any difficulty in releasing them, but at least they should give that undertaking.

Shri Sinkre (Marmagao): May I put a question?

Shri Ranga (Shittoor): Let me make it a little clear to my hon. friend the Finance Minister. He has not been used to these political troubles. Let there be no condition at all. After all, they have gone on this hunger strike just because of this trouble they have been having. Now the Finance Minister has stated something which is not so satisfactory, anyhow something by way of giving some satisfaction to these people. They would, of their own accord, give up the present phase of their movement for the removal of this gold control and the troubles that have arisen as a result of it. What ought to be done in all fairness and in all conscience by the Government in their own interest, in the general public interest, now that they have taken this decision and the other decision is going to be announced on the 3rd of next month, the least that they can do is to straightway say that they are releasing these people and be done with the trouble.

Shri Nambiar: May I put in a word? My submission is not going to take any time. My only submission is: let the Finance Minister do something to get them released, then the question of hunger strike will automatically be solved. Let us not put it the other way and create difficulties.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): If the Finance Minister, as it appears today, has sobered down a bit in approach, I think it would be very fair, fair on his part and fair on the part of the Government and fair to the country,—the Prime Minister is here, the Home Minister is not necessary—to come to a decision that those persons who have been so put behind bars for the only offence of having gone

on hunger strike will be released. If these people are released, then there would be a calmer atmosphere to discuss.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Every one wants to say that they should be released. That has been said now by so many members who have spoken, I suppose.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berpampur): Not like that. So far as the negotiations with the goldsmiths are concerned, I have been personally concerned with that matter, and it has been my anxiety....

An Hon. Member: We are equally concerned.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I have been personally concerned, you have not gone and negotiated with the Minister and with these people. I am not claiming any special credit. I know that the majority of the Members of that side are also concerned about the lifting of gold control, but they cannot say anything now. Why provoke me? I am a peaceable man.

This movement is not going in Delhi only, all over India this movement is going on, not only these hunger strikes. I was expecting some such statement to come from the Government yesterday, but anyway delay has taken place. May be without the knowledge of the hon. Finance Minister or the Prime Minister, these people in the dead of night have been arrested, and many other people have been arrested and put in jail, in Tihar Jail. If the Government wants to make a graceful gesture, let all these people be released. Let them take a decision in calmness. We from our side, all Members of this side and Members on the other side, will exert our influence, so that they can consider the thing in a peaceful atmosphere, better atmosphere. Let not grace be taken away from the gesture that the Government is making.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indra Gandhi): I do not think there was

any intention of not being gracious. What the Finance Minister said was that this request would be viewed most sympathetically, and we shall consider it.

Shri Daji: The question is of release.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I am talking about release.

Shri Daji: But he says they cannot be released unless we persuade them to give up the hunger strike.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

13.88 hrs.

DELHI SALES TAX BILL—contd.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of tax on sale of goods in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of tax on sale of goods in Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I introduce the Bill.

13.39 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (No. 3) BILL,* 1966

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1966-67.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise pay-

ment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated fund of India for the services of the financial year 1966-67."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I introduce the Bill.

13.40 hrs.

JAYANTI SHIPPING COMPANY (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri C. M. Poonacha on the 16th August, 1966, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for the taking over of the management of the undertaking of the Jayanti Shipping Company Limited for a limited period in order to secure the proper management of the same, be taken into consideration."

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, on a point of order. There are two points of order on this. One is under rule 76. You will be pleased to see that the Minister in charge of this Bill in terms of this rule is Mr. C. M. Poonacha. To-day fortunately, we have in the House the senior Minister, Mr. Sanjiva Reddy but unfortunately rules are inexorable. Not that I am a stickler for rules; I am only a respecter of rules as they help preserve order in the House; otherwise conditions will become chaotic, if we do not observe the rules. The rule says:

"No motion that a Bill be taken into consideration or be passed shall be made by any member other than the member in charge of the Bill and no motion that a Bill be referred to a Select Committee of the

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 24. 8. 66.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.